CLAIMS:

1.   A method comprising:

reading a client credential card to identify a client of a social service organization;

retrieving data associated with the identified client from a database; and

determining whether the identified client is permitted to receive a service provided by the social service organization based on the retrieved data.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the social service organization comprises at least one of a shelter, a domestic violence support provider, a state government, a country government, an information and referral agency, and a food shelf, and services provided by the social service organization include at least one of shelter, food, showers, medical care, counseling, employment assistance and housing assistance.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the identified client is permitted to access a service comprises determining whether the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client, the method further comprising generating a security advisory that suggests denial of the service to the identified client in the event the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the identified client is permitted to receive a service comprises determining whether the identified client is permitted to access a facility of the social services organization.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a service for delivery to the identified client based on the retrieved data.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a housing opportunity for the identified client based on the retrieved data.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the service to the client; and

updating the database to reflect provision of the service to the client.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein reading a client credential card comprises reading a unique identification number associated with the client stored in machine-readable form on the client credential card, and wherein querying a database comprises providing the identification number to the database.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the data is encoded onto one of a magnetic stripe, bar code, radio frequency identification tag, or smartcard chip that is carried by the card.

10.   A client management system comprising:

a database to store data associated with a client of a social service organization;

a card reader to read a client credential card associated with the client; and

an access workstation coupled to the card reader to identify the client based on data read from the client credential card, retrieve at least some of the data associated with the client from the database, and to determine whether the client is permitted to receive a service provided by the social service organization based on the retrieved data.

11.   The system of claim 10, wherein the social service organization comprises at least one of a shelter, a domestic violence support provider, a state government, a country government, an information and referral agency, and a food shelf, and services provided by the social service organization include at least one of shelter, food, showers, medical care, counseling, employment assistance and housing assistance.

12.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation retrieves the data from the database via a network.

13.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation includes an incident/observation module that determines whether the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client and generates a security advisory that suggests denial of the service to the client in the event the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client.

14.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation is located at a facility of the social services organization, and determines whether the client permitted to access the facility based on the retrieved data.

15.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation further comprises a housing module to identify housing opportunities for the identified client based on the retrieved data.

16.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation further comprises a services module to identify services for delivery to the identified client based on the retrieved data.

17.   The system of claim 10, wherein the access workstation updates the database to reflect provision of the service to the client.

18.   The system of claim 10, wherein data read from the client credential card includes a unique identification number associated with the client, and the access workstation retrieves the at least some data associated with the client from the database based on the unique identification number.

19.   A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

identify a client of a social service organization based on data read from a client credential card;

retrieve data associated with the identified client from a database; and

determine whether the identified client is permitted to receive a service provided by the social service organization based on the retrieved data.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to determine whether the identified client is permitted to receive a service comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to determine whether the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client, the medium further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to generate an advisory in the event the retrieved data indicates a past incident pertaining to the client.

21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to identify a service for delivery to the identified client based on the retrieved data.

22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to identify a housing opportunity for the identified client based on the retrieved data.

23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to update the database to reflect provision of the service to the client.

24.   A method comprising
          collecting data associated with clients of at least one social service organization, the data for each of the clients including identification data;
          creating a record within a database for each of the clients, each of the records including at least some of the data collected for the respective client;
          generating a client credential card for each of the clients, wherein each of the client credential cards includes at least a portion of the data for the respective client;
          reading the client credential cards to identify clients when the clients attempt to receive services provided by the social service organization; and
          updating the records within the database based on services received by the clients to track usage of the services by the clients.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the social service organization comprises at least one of a shelter, a domestic violence support provider, a state government, a country government, an information and referral agency, and a food shelf, and services provided by the social service organization include at least one of shelter, food, showers, medical care, counseling, employment assistance and housing assistance.

26.   The method of claim 24, further comprising storing data related to application for and usage of housing by the clients within respective records within the database.

27.   The method of claim 24, further comprising storing data related to at least one of incidents and observations pertaining to the clients within respective records within the database.

28.   The method of claim 24, further comprising storing demographic data for the clients within respective records within the database.

29.   The method of claim 24, further comprising:
        providing an interface for the user to search the records stored within the database;
        receiving a query from the user via the interface; and
        presenting a list including at least one the records based on the query

30.   The method of claim 24, further comprising generating a report based on the data stored in the database for the plurality of clients.

31.   The method of claim 30, further comprising receiving parameters from a user, wherein generating a report comprises filtering the data for inclusion in the report based on the parameters.

32.   The method of claim 30, wherein the report comprises one of a turnstile report and a cost of services report.

33. A client management system comprising:

a database;

an intake workstation to collect data associated with clients of at least one social services organization, the data for each of the clients including identification data, create a record within the database for each of the clients, each of the records including at least some of the data collected for the respective client, and control a card printer to generate a client credential card for each of the clients, wherein each of the client credential cards includes at least a portion of the data for the respective client; and

an access workstation to read the client credential cards via a card reader to identify clients when the clients attempt to receive services provided by the social service organization, and update the records within the database based on social services accessed by the clients provided by the social service organization to track usage of the services by the clients.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the social service organization comprises at least one of a shelter, a domestic violence support provider, a state government, a country government, an information and referral agency, and a food shelf, and services provided by the social service organization include at least one of shelter, food, showers, medical care, counseling, employment assistance and housing assistance.

35. The system of claim 33, wherein at least one of the intake workstation and the access workstation stores data related to application for and usage of housing by the clients within respective records within the database.

36. The system of claim 33, wherein the access workstation stores data related to at least one of incidents and observations pertaining to the clients within respective records within the database.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the data collected for each of the clients includes demographic data.

38. The system of claim 33, wherein at least one of the intake workstation and the access workstation provides an interface for a user to search the records within the database, receives a query from the user via the interface, and presents a list including at least one of the records to the user via the interface based on the query.

39. The system of claim 33, wherein at least one of the intake workstation and the access workstation include a report generating module to generate a report based on the data stored in the database for the plurality of clients.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the workstation receives parameters from a user via a user interface, and the report generating module filters the data for inclusion in the report based on the parameters.

41. The system of claim 39, wherein the report comprises one of a turnstile report and a cost of services report.

42. The system of claim 33, wherein the at least one of the intake workstation and the access workstation accesses the database via a network.